

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - July 6, 2000, 9 AM - 9:25 AM

Participants:

Jeff Fromm, IDEQ

Lauri Vique, WA Dept. of Fish and Game

Michelle Wilcox, Ecology

Julie Campbell, USFWS

Anne Dailey, EPA

Marti Calabretta, CAC

Phil Cernera, CDA Tribe

Merril Coomes, City of Coeur d'Alene

Waterfowl Feeding Study:

- There was a short follow-up to the previous discussions (6/29/00 teleconference) and recap of other conversations regarding a waterfowl feeding studies to evaluate whether metal bioavailability can be reduced by using soil amendments
- Two separate funding sources are currently known to be potentially available (EPA and monies from BLM to the Coeur d'Alene Basin Commission)
- Recent discussions have focused on combining those funds and project ideas to come up with a single, integrated study to answer as many questions as possible concerning soil amendments
- There are a range of questions concerning soil amendments that need to be addressed. The questions range from:
 - is there a reduction in metals bioavailability to waterfowl?
 - how is plant growth impacted?
 - is there an impact on humans?
 - what is the stability of the amendments? is weathering an issue? timeframe?
 - what products are available?
 - how often would the amendments need to be reapplied?
 - cost?
 - ????
- While the feeding study has been discussed in an ecological context, it is really a treatability study...a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the soil amendment treatment technology and so EPA is involving the FS team in the discussions.
- A small group comprised of Dan Audet (USFWS), Kathy Johnson (IDEQ), Colin Wagner (Ridolfi - working on Feasibility Study component in CSM 3), Mary Jane Nearman (EPA) and Anne Dailey (EPA) had a conversation on 7/3/00 to discuss how we might be able to merge the studies.
- The general conclusion from the July 3rd conversation, is that it may make sense to conduct a controlled laboratory feeding study (e.g., a bench test) and also conduct a longer-term field test. The general concept is that the laboratory study may be able to utilize soil samples collected from CdA basin sites which have had amendments applied previously as well as lab application of amendments. The longer-term field test would consist of field applications of amendments with periodic testing of the soils over several years.

- There are obviously many details to be worked out regarding the study concepts. Parties are going to gather additional information and then be prepared to discuss the issue further at the Feasibility Study meeting planned for July 18th in Seattle and the CDA Basin-wide and EcoRA calls on Thursday, July 20th.

Update of EcoRA schedule:

- The EcoRA review schedule continues to be as follows:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8/31/00 | draft EcoRA mailed to EcoRA work group for review
document will be distributed on CD-Rom with hard copies
provided to specific individuals who have requested hard copies
(Frank Frutche and Dolly Hartman so far); both the CD-Rom
version and hard copy version will be placed in the repositories |
| 9/27-28/00 | EcoRA work group workshop in CDA regarding draft EcoRA
document (to be held at USFS facility on Kathleen Road) |
| 10/6/00 | Written comments on EcoRA due to EPA |

EPA CdA Web Site:

- EPA has been working to establish a useful web for the CdA RI/FS
- Web site address is: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/cda>
- Notes from the EcoRA teleconferences and EcoRA documents will be posted on the web site which updated on Fridays

ArcExplorer:

- EPA has completed its internal review of the ArcExplorer project prepared by URS and anticipates that the application will be ready for distribution by the end of July
- ArcExplorer is a map viewer software distributed free of charge by Environmental Systems Research Institute and it will provide a graphical representation of surface water, groundwater, and soil/surface sediment cadmium, lead and zinc concentrations in the RI/FS project area

Trout Study:

- Dailey briefly mentioned that Julie Campbell, USFWS, will be collecting fine grained sediment from the CdA basin for Dave Mount, EPA Duluth Lab, for use in a study of dietary metals uptake by trout. Thanks to Julie for your help!!

Next Teleconference:

- Next EcoRA call will be on July 20, 2000 at 9 AM PST
- Call-in number is 206-553-4616; no pass code required
- >>> Please note that this call-in number differs from the phone number for the 8 AM CdA Basin-wide call at 8 AM PST which is 206-553-4602
- topics of discussion will include:
 - waterfowl feeding study update from 7/18 FS meeting
 - status of the EcoRA
 - other topics as appropriate